

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Paragraphs 0035, 0037, and 0040 have been amended in the specification.

New claims 13-21 have been added.

This amendment adds, changes and/or deletes claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

Claims 1-21 are currently pending. Claim 12 has been provisionally withdrawn from consideration.

Objection to the Drawings

The drawings are objected to for not showing a “vehicular speed variation rate limiter.” See Office Action at page 2. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Applicants’ drawings show a vehicular velocity variation rate limiter. For example, Figure 7 demonstrates the operation of a vehicular speed variation rate limiter. Figure 7 is further described in Applicants’ specification at paragraphs 0016 and 0038-0042. Therefore, Applicants’ drawings do show the features of a vehicular velocity variation rate limiter. Withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

In particular, the Office argues that the language of claims 1 and 2 is unclear. Claims 1 and 2 have been amended to overcome this rejection. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 has been amended to overcome this rejection. Applicants further submit that claims 1-11 are enabled by Applicants' disclosure. For example, paragraphs 0037-0043 and Figures 7 and 8 of Applicants' disclosure discuss the operation of an exemplary vehicular motion control apparatus and a vehicular velocity variation rate limiter. One of ordinary skill in the art would be enabled by Applicants' disclosure to practice Applicants' invention without undue experimentation. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,957,987 (hereafter "Sudo et al."). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Sudo et al. discloses a vehicle motion control apparatus that includes a front road wheel steering angle sensor 14, a vehicle speed sensor 16, and a control unit 4 that includes a target vehicle motion setting section 41, a target rear road wheel steering angle calculating section 42, and a rear road wheel steering angle servo calculating section 43. See Sudo et al. at col. 3, lines 35-56; col. 4, lines 41-67. The target vehicle motion setting section 41 calculates a target yaw rate and target yaw angular velocity on the basis of a sensed front road wheel steering angle and vehicle speed values. See Sudo et al. at col. 4, lines 41-50. The target rear road wheel steering angle calculating section 42 calculates a target rear road wheel steering angle value on the basis of the target yaw rate, the target yaw angular velocity, the sensed front road wheel steering angle, and the sensed vehicle speed value. See Sudo et al. at col. 4, lines 50-62. The rear road wheel steering angle servo calculating section 43 calculates a target drive current value I that is supplied to a drive motor 11 on the basis of the target rear road wheel steering angle value and a sensed rear road wheel steering angle value. See Sudo et al. at col. 4, lines 62-67; col. 5, lines 1-5.

However, Sudo et al. fails to disclose a vehicular motion control apparatus that includes "a vehicular velocity variation rate limiter configured to place a limitation on a vehicle speed variation rate by comparing the detected value of the vehicle speed to a vehicular speed variation rate limit value, wherein the vehicular speed variation rate limit value varies in accordance with the detection value of the vehicular steering angle." Sudo et al. does not disclose that the control unit 4 or any other portion of the vehicle motion control

apparatus includes a vehicular velocity variation rate limiter. Therefore, Sudo et al. fails to disclose all of the features recited by claim 1. Claim 11 includes features similar to claim 1.

For at least the reasons noted above, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

New Claims 13-21

Claims 13-21 have been added. Applicants submit that claims 13-21 are allowable over the prior art for at least the reasons noted above.

Applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check or credit card payment form being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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By



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